IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 29 (canceled).

30. (original) A self crimping ossicular prosthesis comprising:

a pair of jaws of a bioactive material each comprising a body having a semi-cylindrical inner surface for engaging opposite sides of an ossicle when implanted in a human ear, to anchor to the ossicle;

a spring element of a flexible material, different from the pair of jaws, operatively coupled to the jaws for biasing the jaws toward one another to provide clamping pressure; and

an actuator element operatively coupled to the spring element.

31. (original) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 30 wherein the actuator element comprises a piston adapted to extend through an oval window when implanted in a human ear.

32. (original) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 30 wherein the actuator element comprises a transducer element.

33. (currently amended) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 32 wherein the transducer element comprises one of a coil, or a magnet of an electromagnetic actuator[[;]], or a piezoelectric element.

34. (new) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 30 wherein the spring element has opposite ends each received in an opening in one of the jaws to provide swivel joints.

35. (new) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 34 wherein the swivel joint is surrounded by an elastomer.

36. (new) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 30 further comprising a spacer to temporarily hold the jaws in an open position until implanting in a human ear is completed.

37. (new) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 30 wherein the spring element is of a material selected from titanium or stainless steel.

38. (new) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 30 wherein the spring element comprises a wire formed in a loop extending around the actuator element.

39. (new) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 30 wherein the jaws are of hydroxylapatite.